

Syllabus of the Course

Humanity's greatest challenges



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



UNIVERSIDADE
CATÓLICA
PORTUGUESA

Topics and Content:

Week 1 – Context (Filipa Pires de Almeida, Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics) 24th and 25th October

- Historical perspective: The SDG Agenda and where it comes from
- Why are the SDGs important? A Common language for prosperity
- 2030 Agenda: SDG per SDG
- Systemic perspective of the SDGs: multi-level, multi-sector, multidisciplinary
- Why SDG 16 and why is it important?
- Organization's role and citizens' role on the SDG Agenda

Week 2 – Political Studies (Mónica Dias, Instituto de Estudos Políticos) 31st October and 2nd November

- Introduction: Changing Meanings of Conflict and Peace in the 21st Century
- Context & Concepts: From new wars to new strategies for Peace
- Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in the tradition of the UN
- Peacebuilding and civil society (the perspective of NGOs and Think Tanks)
- Transitions to Democracy and the Democratic Peace Thesis in debate
- Peace and justice through the lens of the Truth and Conciliation approach
- The transformational peace approach: broader possibilities for peace and justice

Week 3 – Philosophy and Social Science (Carla Pinto Rebelo, Faculdade de Filosofia e Ciências Sociais) 7th and 8th November

- Special questions in social ethics.
- Effective governance for SDG Implementation (international to local strategies and innovative practices)
- Key actions needed to tackle global challenges
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Strengthening Institutional Effectiveness: action plan for accelerating change

Week 4 – Business & Economics (Raquel Campos Franco, Católica Porto Business School) 14th and 15th November

- What can be the meaning of just companies?
- Corruption in the corporate world
- Whistleblowing channels and the protection of whistleblowers
- Can corporations be instruments of peace?

Week 5 – Law (Inês Espinheiro Gomes, Faculdade de Direito, Escola do Porto) 21st and 22nd November

- The principle of equality and non-discrimination
- Affirmative action measures: a comparative constitutional law approach
- Equality, justice and inclusion in sport: a gender and human rights approach

- Child's rights and corporal punishment. The CRC and ECHR provisions.
- Corporal punishment around the world.
- Strategies for elimination of corporal punishment around the world.

Week 6 – Group Assignment presentations (all professors) 28th and 29th November

- Groups present their assignments

Objectives

- Understand the importance of the SDG as a universal and strategic language for the future of humanity
- Understand the challenge posed by SDS 16 with a multisectoral lens: public, private sector, and civil society
- Open up for a broader and active concept of Peace
- Understand the connection between Peace, Justice, and State / Institution Building
- Learn the main concepts of effective institutions, understand why effective institutions are vital for SDG implementation, and identify approaches to effective institution building
- Understand the importance of stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation
- Explore and deepen knowledge on the role of companies and/or institutions in the context of SDG16, with a particular emphasis on targets 16.2 (End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children), 16.5 (Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms), 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels) and 16.B (Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development)

Methodology

- Interactive lectures with student participation
- Group and individual research work
- Participation of external guests - inspiration
- Video watching
- Case discussions

Grading

The individual assessment will have three distinct components:

- Group work (40%): the students will be split into groups of 4 to 5 elements. Each professor will launch one or two questions at the end of his/her class, and students will be responsible for answering all the questions posed. These questions will be made available in the first class by the coordinator of the curricular unit. The group work will be developed based on a basic document that will be provided in the beginning of the course. All the students will be peer-reviewed and have to be present in two sessions with a mentor – i.e. a professor of the course.

The final work, which includes the answer to all questions, must be submitted the day before the last class, by 23:59 (Lisbon time), on the course platform.

- Individual response to quizzes during each class (30%): At the end of each class, quizzes will be launched regarding the contents of the class. The answer to these quizzes corresponds to 30% of the final assessment. Failure to attend class will result in a score of zero on the quiz.
- Individual assignment or test (30%): Students must complete an individual assignment which corresponds to 30% of the final assessment.

Informations about the course

- Elective course
- First semester of the academic year 2023/24
- 3 ECTS
- Taught by five different teachers (from different Faculties)
- In English language
- Online classes

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